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NEWSLETTER

99-1033

January 1, 1986

Washington, DC

GOOD MORNING ONE AND ALL. The ancient Celtic priests of the British Isles, the Druids, would cut and distribute the sacred mistletoe on the first day of the new year. American Revolutionary hero Paul Revere, and our famous flagmaking seamstress, Betsy Ross, were born on New Year's Day. Lincoln gave his Emancipation Proclamation on New Year's Day 1863, and the U S Parcel Post shipped its first boxed package on this day in 1913. Rio de Janeiro was discovered in Brazil on this day in 1531!

If you are a Korean and went to bed on New Year's Eve without hearing a cock crow--you'd better stay in bed today! And for those who admire a slight-of-hand, you would have awakened on New Year's Day in 1926 to learn about the death of the great Houdini (he died of a ruptured appendix).

And if you were an optimist on New Year's Day in 1959--it didn't last long as the nation learned that Castro came to power in Cuba--but on the very next day, in 1968, the first successful human heart transplant took place.

It is your Congressman's first hope that everyone made it safely and happily past New Year's Eve. There's nothing quite like the first day of a new year--sort of like coming out of the clouds and into blue sky. You can forget yesterday -- everything has started over again.

The House of Representatives will begin its second session, or sitting, on January 21st. Legislative measures that failed to receive complete consideration in the first session will be taken up again. And sometimes the new year spirit means different fortunes for left-over legislative business.

A bill once opposed may be seen in a new light in January; or a bill once favored may be seen in the sober light of day as undeserving. The Senate will take up the tax reform package which passed the House last month--and new year's light may be shed upon its fortunes! And our Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction plans must stand in that sober light of day when the budget cutting follow-through comes due.

And the new session brings a raft of messages from the President. The President will send his messenger to the Capitol and he will walk down the center aisle to be recognized by the Speaker of the House. After a short ceremonial bow, he will deliver the President's greetings and a list of requests to ring in the new year!



—KIKI DE LA GARZA, 15TH DISTRICT, TEXAS—

This is a good day for me to once again remind all South Texans that I encourage your letters to me in Washington. As we begin the year, I want to know of your concerns, your ideas on direction and the things that are important to South Texas. It will be a busy year complying with new budget rules and I will work strenuously to preserve what we have built for ourselves. But I need to know how you feel about the adjustments that are sure to come.

So let me hear from you--always your personal letter receives my personal reply. That will never change. You can write me at the U S House of Representatives, 1401 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D C 20515. A prosperous and happy 1986 to you and yours--and to all our friends everywhere.

* * *

OUR PRAYERS FOR THE U S SERVICEMEN. All who sacrifice their lives in the fulfillment of service to their country bear the mark of the hero. No matter how or where a disaster occurs, the loss of young men in the service of their country is a tragedy--their lives cut short with no promise of future success or life. It is with a profound sorrow that we will mourn the loss of the 248 servicemen killed in an air crash near Gander, Newfoundland as they returned homeward from a peacekeeping mission in the Sinai with a United Nations contingent.

The House of Representatives made time on December 18 to unanimously approve a resolution expressing the sentiment of the House over the loss of the 248 men attached to the 101st Air Assault Division based on Kentucky. The hectic activity of Congress came to an abrupt halt on December 12 when we learned of this tragedy so close to Christmas time. Although the families of the men and the eight crew members who perished did not have the same kind of joy-filled holiday season that others enjoyed, we want them to know the nation mourns with them. In speaking on the House floor, I said let us make this tragedy into a monument for our dedication to the servicemen.

Because these young men were involved in a peacekeeping function in a dangerous part of the world--your Congressman is reminded of the New Testament verse, contained in the writings of St Matthew, which says "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

A memorial fund has been established at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and donations to the families may be sent to: Officer/NCO Wives' Club Memorial Fund, P O Box 106, Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223. The U S Army held a memorial ceremony at Fort Campbell December 20th--and travel costs for the next of kin were paid by the Army. And in a show of compassion and true generosity, Delta and American Airlines also offered free travel to Nashville, Tennessee where family members were met by the Army and taken to Fort Campbell and returned to Nashville. The President and Mrs Reagan attended the memorial service and paid their condolences to every family there. We were all grateful and proud that the Commander-in-Chief would personally mourn his fallen troops.

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